



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1560

DATE: October 23, 2015

TO: Iowa Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Targeted Case Managers and Iowa Department of Human Services Service Workers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Core Standardized Assessment Implementation

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

In accordance with the Balancing Incentive Program, Iowa Medicaid has selected the core standardized assessment for persons served by the Health & Disability, Physical Disability, AIDS/HIV and Elderly Waivers. The interRAI-Home™ Care (iHC) standardized assessment has been selected for these programs as the functional assessment to determine if an applicant meets the level of care criteria for waiver enrollment. The assessment will also be used as a service planning tool to assist in identifying the supports and services waiver members need to live successfully in the community.

The iHC focuses on function and quality of life by assessing needs, strengths and preferences. There are separate versions of the assessment for adults and children. The IME independent vendor conducting the assessments is Telligen. Since August 2014 Telligen has been conducting the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS) assessment for persons who receive services through the Intellectual Disability Waiver or are residing in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID). Telligen will begin conducting a pilot of the interRAI-Home Care assessment tool in December 2015 and will conduct a selected number of assessments.

Telligen will reach out to case managers and services workers in October and November 2015 to conduct practice assessments. This will be a good opportunity for case managers, service workers and members to gain firsthand experience with the iHC. Volunteer members will receive a gift card for their participation in a practice assessment. In November 2015, Telligen will schedule a limited number of iHC assessments that will take place in December 2015. This will help inform the ongoing process of completing the iHC for these identified populations.

More information on the implementation of core standardized assessments can be found on the [Balancing Incentive Program \(BIP\) webpage](http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA)¹. Questions and inquiries may be submitted to CoreStandardizedAssessments@dhs.state.ia.us. If you would like to participate in a practice assessment, please call Core Standardized Assessments at 877-563-6972.

¹ <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA>